



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

SEP 02 2011

Margarita Olopai-Taitano
Director
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 501521
Saipan, MP 96950-1521

Dear Ms. Olopai-Taitano:

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) acknowledges your electronic submission via the RSA management information system (MIS) of the fiscal year (FY) 2012 State Plan for the Title I Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program and Supplement for the Title VI-B Supported Employment (SE) Services Program in the form of a preprint of affirmative assurances and required attachments on behalf of the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas' Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in compliance with Sections 101(a) and 625 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended (the act). In addition, RSA acknowledges receipt of the assurance, submitted on June 30, 2011, to complete the activities necessary to fulfill the assurance under which the FY 2011 State Plan was approved.

The State Plan, in the form of a preprint of affirmative assurances and any required attachments, and the assurance(s) of compliance were reviewed to ensure conformity with statutory provisions of the act, implementing regulations and the administrative requirements of RSA. RSA approves the OVR State Plan for the VR and SE programs based on the submitted preprint of affirmative assurances, required attachments and the assurance to complete the activities necessary to fulfill the assurance under which the FY 2011 State Plan was approved and submitted in conjunction with the FY 2012 State Plan.

In accordance with this approval of the State Plan and accompanying assurance(s), RSA is making available to the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas its FY 2012 Title I, Part B, and Title VI, Part B, grant awards. Please be advised that RSA will closely monitor OVR's activities in support of the assurance it has made.

The approved FY 2012 OVR State Plan will be published by RSA and available to the general public on RSA's MIS by Monday, October 3, 2011. Individuals who wish to read the State Plan at that time may visit http://rsamis.ed.gov/view_info.cfm, select the appropriate state, search for "VR State Plan" and select "View the VR State Plan."

Finally, although RSA has approved the OVR FY 2012 State Plan, we encourage your agency to develop measureable goals for the FY 2013 State Plan, including baseline data and specified targets, that would enable OVR to measure, assess and monitor its performance. In addition, consider aligning these goals with the federal standards and indicators for which OVR has not met the required performance levels.

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202
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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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If you have any questions about this letter, please contact your state liaison, Adrienne Grierson, at (202) 245-7561 or adrienne.grierson@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynnae M. Rutledge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lynnae" being more prominent.

Lynnae M. Rutledge
Commissioner

cc: Tonya Stellar